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AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE 364th TO 383rd MEETINGS

Held at Headquarters, New York,
from 16 April to 13 July 1990

Corrigendum

This corrigendum contains delegation and Secretariat corrections to the summary records of the meetings held by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean from 16 April to 13 July 1990 (A/AC.159/SR.364-383).

With the issuance of this corrigendum, the records of the above-mentioned meetings are to be considered final.

370th meeting

Paragraph 2

For the existing text substitute

2. Mr. JAIN (India) said that he agreed with the approach of the representative of Yemen that in general the Committee should conduct its work in formal meetings. However, sometimes it might be preferable and more expeditious to conduct work in informal meetings. For that reason, consideration of documents such as draft agendas and draft provisional rules of procedure was traditionally conducted in multilateral forums in informal meetings, with a view to evolving a consensus on them, and a similar practice might be followed in the current instance.

371st meeting

Paragraph 14

At the end of the paragraph insert He added that the non-aligned members of the Committee had first tabled their proposals on the draft provisional agenda in

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document A/AC.159/L.60 in March 1984, and surely the Co-ordinator of the non-aligned members would further elaborate the approach and rationale of their proposals.

375th meeting

Paragraph 5

For the existing final sentence substitute It was therefore preferable to retain the original text.

Paragraph 49

For the existing text after the first sentence substitute The rule regarding the majority required for decision-making was entirely distinct from the rule of quorum. There was no direct or inherent linkage between these two different requirements. In his view, therefore, there was no need to defer a decision on rule 16. However, he was not opposed to considering that rule at a later stage, if other delegations insisted on proceeding in that manner.

Paragraph 51a

After paragraph 51 insert

51a. Mr. JAIN (India) said there could be no uncertainty about the fact that the amendment proposed by his delegation concerned only the quorum set out in draft rule 16, which was included in the framework of chapter VI, entitled "Conduct of Business". While the article required the presence of representatives of a majority of States participating in the Conference for any decision to be taken, the Indian delegation proposed raising the quorum to two thirds of the participating States for decisions on matters of substance.

376th meeting

Paragraph 9

At the end of the final sentence, after "substantive matters", insert before reverting to the draft provisional agenda

Paragraph 11

Seventh line: after unaware of any insert formal, definitive

Final sentence: for the existing text substitute What the Committee had decided was that it would approach its programme of work in a flexible manner.

377th meeting

Paragraphs 17 and 18

For the existing text substitute

17. Mr. JAIN (India) agreed with the representative of China that issues could not be forced unduly. The spirit of co-operation and understanding should be maintained for achieving the common goal of implementation of the 1971 Declaration.

18. The work should be conducted in a manner to maintain harmony and maximize effectiveness. Therefore, agreements that were reached should be finalized by formal adoption, and the items on which immediate agreement was not possible should be set aside for the time being to be taken up subsequently, after a due process of consultations.

Paragraph 28

For the existing text of the penultimate sentence substitute The Committee must complete its consideration of that non-paper before considering whether to give it the status of an official document.

Paragraph 41

For the existing text substitute

41. Mr. JAIN (India) agreed to the consideration of the draft agenda at the morning meeting of 12 July, on the basis of necessary consultations held before then in regard to items 12 and 13 of the draft provisional agenda aimed at facilitating a consensus on it.

Paragraph 62

For the existing text substitute

62. Mr. JAIN (India) again referred to his delegation's proposals relating to rule 62 as contained in document A/AC.159/1985/CRP.2 in regard of the majority needed for matters of procedure, substantive matters and adoption of the substantive part of the report of the Conference. In accordance with that, he agreed with the proposal to delete rule 31, since it was covered by rule 32, and he proposed that adoption of decisions on substantive matters should also require support of a majority of all the States participating in the Conference.

380th meeting

Paragraph 2

For the existing text substitute

2. Mr. JAIN (India) said that his delegation had some difficulties with the proposals under consideration for items 12 and 13 of the draft provisional agenda. His delegation's first preference remained to revert to the proposal made by the non-aligned countries as in document A/AC.159/L.60. However, in consideration of the discussions held, he would propose deletion of the proposed item 12. In the Indonesian proposal for item 13, he would propose it be redrafted to read: "Review of the situation in the Indian Ocean with reference to the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace".

Paragraph 8

For the existing text substitute

8. Mr. JAIN (India) said that his proposal to delete item 12 was certainly not intended to prevent any ministers or delegations from making general statements; it only sought to keep the focus of the general debate, which would then be held within the purview of the next item, dealing with review of the situation, on the theme of the Conference. His proposal to delete the word "area" in the next agenda item did not restrict the scope of the discussions because even the 1971 General Assembly resolution declared the "Indian Ocean" and not the "Indian Ocean area" as a zone of peace. Furthermore, the limits of the Indian Ocean area deemed to be covered by the Declaration were yet to be defined, and the Ad Hoc Committee, in proposing the draft agenda for the Conference, should not prejudge the decision of the Conference in that regard. His last proposal was intended to make the item more to the point and to avoid diffusing the issue or distracting from the thrust of the Declaration. His proposal was made using a text which took into account the concerns of all delegations, and yet it would be in keeping with the Declaration and its aims.

381st meeting

Paragraph 19

For the existing text substitute

19. Mr. JAIN (India) said that the work should be based on previous agreements and understanding, and in that context he specifically referred to the report of the Chairman of the Working Group at the time of the start of the work in 1988, as contained in document A/AC.159/L.85. The current status of the Chairman's non-paper appended on document A/AC.159/L.93 derived directly from those and remained unchanged. It was clear that the non-paper, while reflecting convergence of views on some elements, was still subject to several differences on items some of which were included and many others of which were not. There had not been

enough time at the current session to resume a meaningful consideration of the paper, but the Working Group would have to return to it, perhaps at the following session. As agreed at the July 1989 session, delegations could present their proposals and views in writing for circulation as conference room papers.

382nd meeting

Paragraph 19a

After paragraph 19 insert

19a. Mr. JAIN (India) said that his delegation had not formally objected to the text proposed by the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania out of a desire to promote progress in the Committee towards the common objective of the implementation of the Declaration. Furthermore, it had not raised any objection because several delegations had stated that, to their recollection, the text adopted was the text that had been agreed upon in the informal consultations the previous day. His delegation nevertheless had a different recollection. In any event it was wrong to impute sinister motives to any delegation. In accepting the wording just adopted his delegation understood that the phrase "the achievement of its objectives" had the same meaning as the phrase "the implementation of its objectives".

383rd meeting

Paragraph 54

For the existing text substitute

54. Mr. JAIN (India) said that he, too, thought that it was not necessary to address another communication to the members of the Committee. The Committee had already agreed with the proposal of Oman that delegations could convey their views in writing before the next session of the Committee and with the proposal of Sri Lanka that the further consideration of the non-paper in document A/AC.159/L.93 be taken up at the following session directly by the Ad Hoc Committee instead of in the Working Group. An accurate incorporation of those two decisions in the report would be enough for the purpose.